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Letters to the Editor

'Leaking' the Truth To Save a Good Name

We are attorneys for Charles Waterman, who was mentioned in a news article about Stanley Sporkin Dec. 13. The article alleged that Mr. Waterman was suspected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of espionage, that he was never prosecuted and that he resigned in 1984.

Mr. Waterman first retained this law firm in the spring of 1985. Our client was incensed about tasteless allegations made against him in leaks to the press, apparently by those opposed to the nomination of Stanley Sporkin to the federal judiciary. Throughout the course of our representation of Mr. Waterman we have had numerous conversations with officials of the Central Intelligence Agency, including Mr. Sporkin, and officials of the Senate Judiciary Committee. We have yet to see information in any document, or hear any allegation that Mr. Waterman was suspected of espionage. In addition, we have not seen any information which would constitute evidence of any such suspicion.

In November 1985, the Senate Judiciary Committee requested that Mr. Waterman testify in closed session, because the inquiry involved classified information. As Mr. Waterman's attorneys, we were permitted to review the files concerning Mr. Waterman from the CIA. After our review, we recommended to Mr. Waterman that he testify, in accordance with his expressed desire to do so.

At the closed hearing before the committee, Mr. Waterman testified freely about his work as a CIA employee, and about his relationship with Mr. Sporkin. After Mr. Waterman testified, Sen. Denton dropped his objections to Mr. Sporkin's confirmation, and voted in his favor.

Mr. Waterman's testimony and the response to it by the U.S. Senate is inconsistent with an allegation of espionage. Mr. Waterman was never threatened with prosecution by any agency of the federal government, and he struck no "deal" to resign as an alternative to such a threat.

Mr. Waterman's reputation has been seriously harmed by "leaks" of biased and inaccurate information by unnamed sources. We believe it is necessary that the truth be "leaked" so that a good man can continue his life and profession in peace and untarnished.

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